

Development Authority of Lumpkin County Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2014
Conference Room, Lumpkin County Administration Building

Board Members in attendance: Kathy Crafton, Jim Curtis, Donna Gessell, John Gaston, Jim Higdon, JoAnne Taylor, J.B. Jones, Jason Cox

Associate Members/Guests in attendance: Joy Edelberg, Don Trice, Amy Booker,

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jim Curtis at 9:00am

Motion to approve agenda: Jim Higdon: Second: J. B. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion to approve March 18, 2014 minutes: Motion to approve: J. B. Jones. Second: Jim Higdon. Motion carried.

Fieldale Building/Zoning issue: Don Trice, representing Achasta HOA, spoke about protecting the value and growth in Achasta by controlling the potential uses of the Fieldale Property with zoning. Don state emphatically that manufacturing/industrial use does not belong adjacent to residential property and would adversely affect the property values in Achasta. See attached.

Associate members reports: Chamber President Amy Booker reported the new branding initiative the chamber has adopted. She noted that the chamber web site is being updated. Amy mentioned the Health Care Committee is actively working, Six Gap Bicycle event very successful, Leadership Lumpkin had the largest number of applications submitted. J B. Jones mentioned the need for a military event.

Financial reports

Monthly financial reports presented by Treasurer Kathy Crafton. Noted no significant changes. Kathy reported a total fund loss of \$1729.83 for the month.

Motion to accept Financial Statements: Donna Gessell. Second: Jim Higdon. Motion carried.

RFP Lot 2 Ethan Allen – Executive Director Steve Gooch reported the pre-bid meeting was not successful. He noted numerous calls in the past two weeks and stated that some contractors had not seen the RFP packet until last week. Steve suggested we extend the bid period. Motion to extend the bid period to end on May 16th: JoAnne Taylor. Second: Jim Higdon. Motion Carried. Dee to communicate the change via email and web site.

Executive Director Steve Gooch thanked Don Trice for his assistance with the hotel study. The Board of Regents is investigating two sites on campus in addition to the Mohawk property. The hotel study we participated in with the Downtown Development Authority did not return the results expected. Need to hire a professional land planning team to assess the Mohawk property

quickly before the BoR chooses a site on campus. Steve noted Dan MacRae is donating his time to assist with the project in the beginning. Donna Gessell noted the college can only be involved in the convocation center part of the project. J.B. Jones stated the need to move quickly while the right people are in politics and the University has to be a partner. Don Trace stated that he is working on a paper of guidelines to use. Hotel/convention center committee to meet next week.

Executive Directors report: Steve Gooch reported working with a distillery interested in the Fieldale Building. They have looked at the building and met with some Achasta homeowners. Process for rezoning is moving slowly. Company will provide 60 jobs at average of \$15.00 per hour. The company can be tied to Agritourism and they are a huge supporter of Veterans. Steve noted the PPG Research Facility in Dahlonega is in need of more office space. They interested in 30,000 sq ft, 3 story modern building on GA 400 property. Development Authority may get involved acting as landowner in a package deal. Jason Cox reported the company has a patent on the process for a cancer swab test and we need to keep them in Lumpkin County. Steve also reported that a Resolution passed to name Lumpkin County and others with NGN fiber broadband as a Gigabit Community. Steve says the criterion is being developed for the designation but we can start promoting LC.

Motion to adjourn: J. B. Jones. Second: Jim Higdon. Meeting adjourned at 10:14.

Approved